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**HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.** Fought Between White Men and Indians at the Mouth of the Great Kanawha River (Now Point Pleasant, West Virginia), Monday, October 10th, 1774. The Chief Event of Lord Dunmore's War. By Virgil A. Lewis, A. M. (State Historian and Archivist), Member of the American Historical Association, [&c., &c.] Author of "History of West Virginia," &c. (Abridged from the Author's Manuscript "History of Lord Dunmore's War"). [Quotations from Ossian]. Charleston, The Tribune Printing Company, West Virginia, 1909. pp. 131, with five illustrations.

The famous fight at Point Pleasant is now generally recognized as the beginning of the history of the Great West. As this author and other recent writers have shown, it held the Indians in check for the first three years of the Revolution, it made the settlement of Kentucky immediately possible, and through that settlement opened the way for Clark's conquest of the Northwest. Mr. Roosevelt was not wrong in saying that had it not been for this victory, probably peace with Great Britain would have been made with the Alleghanies as the western boundary of the United States.

As one of the most important events occurring within the limits of the present State of West Virginia, it was fitting that the official historian of that State should write the history of the battle.

Mr. Lewis is well equipped for his work. He was born within a few miles of the battle-field of Point Pleasant, grew up among the descendants of the men who took part in the fight, and has been a life-long student of the history of his State and section. He is a careful investigator, and a man of fair and unbiassed judgment.

The great mass of most valuable materials for Western history contained in the Draper Collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society affords probably all the necessary information on the subject, and much of this material has recently been made generally accessible in the publications of that Society. The author has made good use of these materials, though probably the Newell diary and order book might have been more largely extracted from.

The book begins with a brief but useful summary of the history of the early settlers, county organizations and general condition among Whites and Indians before and in 1774, and follows this in the second chapter with an account of the causes of "Dunmore's War." The next five chapters contain a carefully-studied account of the gathering of the southern division of the Virginia forces, under Andrew Lewis, at "Camp Union" on the Greenbrier, of the incidents of the march and of the battle.

Other chapters treat of the cost of the expedition, of the true, as compared with the many erroneous, accounts of the campaign; of the ballads to which it gave birth, the murder of Corstalk, and the various contemporary publications in the *Virginia Gazette*, while an appendix gives all the remaining rosters. The whole, fortified as it is by constant reference to authority, makes a valuable and interesting work.

With all that can be said in commendation, there are several points which call for attention and correction. For instance, in the note on page 13 it is stated that Charles Murray was "Master of Cavalry" in the reign of Queen Mary. He was, really, master of the horse—quite a different thing. In the note on page 15, "1809" is misprinted "1609."

Mr. Lewis, very properly, in the note on pages 18 and 19, throws aside various romantic misstatements in regard to the ancestry of Andrew Lewis, of which there has been too much in print. He wisely thinks that "Lynn of Loch Lynn, Scotland," must go as imaginary. Margaret Lynn, the wife of John Lewis, certainly came, as he did, from the North of Ireland. The will of Dr. William Lynn, proved in Spotsylvania county, Va., in 1758, names brothers and other relations in Ireland, and makes bequests to his nephews, Andrew Lewis, &c., in Augusta county.

In the note on page 20, in speaking of the ancestry of Augustus McDonald, "Lord of Glengarry" is hardly the proper style for a Highland chief.

In regard to the statement in the note on page 24, that Adair Stephen was a native of Pennsylvania, it may be said that most authorities say that he was born in Scotland. Wherever born it was certainly not in 1818, as printed.

On page 18 the printer, in a needless effort to copy the long "s's", has substituted, in a short paragraph, thirteen "f's" in their places.

The note in regard to Col. William Fleming, of Botetourt, is confused. There was never any "Lord Sterling, Earl of Wigton," and it is very certain that Colonel Fleming was not son of any of the Flemings, Earls of Wigton.

One final criticism, Mr. Lewis states that he inserts explanatory matter into the Journal of Colonel Fleming, and his additions are usually quite obvious; but it would seem that an archivist's sense of fitness would lead him to print his documents with minute accuracy, and to add the very necessary comments and elucidations elsewhere in the text or in foot notes. Here the extracts from the Journal and the author's additions are printed in the same smaller type with nothing to indicate the difference.

These errors in regard to minor details are of no great importance, and do not affect the very real value of the book.